

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **Troopers Urge Young Motorists to Drive Responsibly, *Focus on Safety During Spring Break***

MONTGOMERY — The upcoming spring break season traditionally means many young drivers take to Alabama's roadways en route to popular beach and vacation spots. Alabama's state troopers will be working throughout the season to help ensure spring break vacationers arrive safely and to encourage them to drive responsibly.

Department of Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy singled out impaired driving, failure to buckle up, and speeding as among the greatest highway safety threats to spring break vacationers.

"These are all potentially deadly choices," said Murphy. "Young drivers risk their own safety and the safety of their friends and passengers if they fail to buckle up, or if they drive while impaired. We've seen that time and again in Alabama, with tragic results."

Alabama state troopers especially will target impaired driving, and Murphy pointed to a recent "Take Back Our Highways: 50/4" campaign in Mobile and Baldwin counties, where troopers made 57 DUI arrests during a four-day blitz.

Murphy said troopers also will be on the lookout for all other traffic violations, including speeding, failure to yield, following too closely, failure to signal, and failure to buckle up.

State troopers work to prevent traffic crashes, injuries and deaths through every-day enforcement efforts and special initiatives like "Take Back Our Highways," said Murphy. "As a result, we're tracking a safety trend in Alabama, with 34 fewer rural traffic deaths so far this year, compared with 2007," he said. "Our promise to Alabama is to do everything possible to continue that trend."

Murphy asked motorists to join as partners to help ensure roadway safety. "Troopers are here to protect you. You can help by driving defensively and courteously, obeying the speed limit and all other traffic laws," said Murphy.

Troopers provide the following safety advice for spring break travelers:

- ◆ Make sure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up on every trip. Make it a habit to buckle up on both long and short trips.
- ◆ Make sure your vehicle is in good operating order before starting your trip.
- ◆ Be keenly aware of your surroundings while driving. Don't let the anticipation of a great time distract you from your primary task of driving safely.
- ◆ Drive defensively, exercising patience and courtesy toward other motorists; never take unnecessary risks on the roadway.
- ◆ If you choose to drink, designate a sober driver, or find alternative transportation.

3-06-08

*for more information contact:*

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Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

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Alabama state troopers will be working statewide to help ensure roadway safety as spring break travelers head to popular beach and vacation spots. At Gulf Shores (from left), Cpl. Joe Piggott, Cpl. Frank Sazera and Tpr. Bobby White display motorcycles and patrol vehicle used in highway safety enforcement.



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